

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application with the present amendments. In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The drawings are amended herein to show the features, i.e., cooperating openings in the computing device, engageable and engaged by attachments, e.g., latches, of the adapter. An annotated sheet showing the specific changes to the drawings in red (addition of FIGS. 1B and 1C) is attached hereto for the Examiner's perusal.

Corresponding amendments are made to the specification with the present changes to the drawings. With reference to paragraphs [0027] and [0028] of the originally filed specification, and original claims 7 and 15, all of the subject matter in the amended drawings and the specification is disclosed in the application as originally filed. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by way of the present amendments.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,859,762 to Clark et al. ("*Clark*"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,084 to Goerdts et al. ("*Goerdts*"), or as obvious over *Clark*, in view of *Goerdts* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,093,326 to Ford ("*Ford*").

As presently pending in the application, claim 1 recites an assembly which includes a computing device and an adapter engageably mounted to the computing device. The computing device includes a cooperating opening that is engageable by a latch. The adapter includes a support plate having a top surface. A latch is provided from a top surface of the support plate, the latch engaging the cooperating opening in

the computing device to secure the computing device to the top surface of the support plate. Claim 1 clearly defines the term "top surface." The top surface is opposite from the bottom surface. The identity of the "top surface" is specified further in that the adapter includes "a connector provided from the bottom surface" which is adapted to removably mount the support plate to a support stand.

While *Clark* shows and describes a stand for supporting a computer, *Clark* merely shows use of "clip elements" 38 for helping to retain the computer. *Clark* neither teaches nor suggests an assembly including a computing device, an adapter having a support plate with a top surface and a bottom surface opposite thereto, in which the support plate has a *latch provided from the top surface which engages a cooperating opening in the computing device* to secure the computing device to the top surface.

However, *Goerd* does not provide the teachings which *Clark* lacks with respect to the invention recited in the presently pending claims. *Goerd* neither teaches nor suggests a latch, nor does *Goerd* teach or suggest one which is provided from a "top surface" of a support plate. Referring to FIG. 2 therein, *Goerd* merely shows and describes use of a *bracket* 24. However, a "bracket" is not the same as a "latch". As defined in Webster's dictionary (*Merriam-Webster OnLine*, Merriam-Webster, Inc. 2005; *see attached*), a "latch" is *any of various devices in which mating mechanical parts engage to fasten but usually not to lock something; a: a fastener (as for a door) consisting essentially of a pivoted bar that falls into a notch; b: a fastener (as for a door) in which a spring slides a bolt into a hole*. "Mechanical" is defined by Webster's as "a(1): *of or relating to machinery or tools*. (*Merriam-Webster OnLine*, Merriam-Webster, Inc. 2005; *see attached*).

By contrast, the definition of a *bracket* is not the same as a latch. At best, a bracket is defined as "*an overhanging member that projects from a structure (as a wall).*" (See attached entry from *Merriam-Webster OnLine*, Merriam-Webster, Inc. 2005.) Nothing in the definition of "bracket" suggests "mating mechanical parts which engage to fasten," e.g., a "pivoted bar" falling into a "notch" or a "bolt" slid by a spring into a hole.

In addition, as clearly shown and described in *Goerd*, the bracket is affixed to a *sidewall* 40 of a pedestal 16. It is not provided from the top surface of a support plate, as claimed in claim 1.

As claims 14 and 20 incorporate the same recitations as claim 1, these claims are believed to be allowable over *Clark* and *Goerd* for at least the same reasons as indicated above.

Moreover, claims 7 and 15 further specify that the cooperating opening of the computing device includes a secure keyhole in the bottom surface of the computing device. The cited references fail to teach or suggest these additional recitations of claims 7 and 15.

Moreover, with respect to claims 3-6 and 16-18, Applicants traverse the rejection of these claims over the combination with *Ford*. Claim 3 recites that the connector provided from the bottom surface of the adapter includes a threaded stud exposed at the bottom surface which is adapted to engage a cooperating threaded opening of the support stand. However, *Ford* shows no such threaded stud exposed at a bottom surface of a plate for engagement with a threaded opening of a support stand. Rather, *Ford* (FIG. 10) shows an aperture 96 in the supported box 12 for allowing a stud

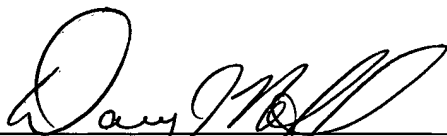
from a tripod 94 to pass. The aperture 96 is not described as being threaded, because there is no need for it to be threaded. A wingnut 100 fastens the stud 95 to mount the box to the tripod 94. Nor does *Ford* teach or suggest the specific structure recited in claim 4, in which the connector includes a threaded opening exposed at the bottom surface of the support plate. As indicated above, *Ford* describes fastening using additional hardware, a wingnut, not using a threaded opening exposed at a bottom surface of the support plate.

Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that the presently pending claims are fully distinguished from the cited references and that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance. If for any reason the Examiner has any question regarding the content of this amendment or the allowability of the presently pending claims, he is respectfully requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

It is believed that no fee is required upon filing this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Richard C. Ferri et al.**

By

  
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**In the Drawings**

Please delete sheet 1 and insert sheet 1 marked "Replacement Sheet"  
(containing FIGS. 1A-1C, 2A-2C and 3A-3B, attached)

